

Application No. 10/796,332

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Amendments of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified patent application:

1-119. (Canceled)

120. (Previously presented) A system for locking an item, said system comprising:

a containing element including first and second enclosure members, said containing element configured to
5 enclose said item; and

a lock comprising:

a base having a portion configured to move inside said containing element when said containing element is closed; and

10 a catch mechanism attached to said portion and configured to be moved relative to said portion by a magnetic field, said catch mechanism comprising a metal component that is, in the presence of said magnetic field, subject to a magnetic force and is configured to be located inside said
15 containing element when said containing element is closed; wherein:

said first enclosure member comprises a first loop and said second enclosure member comprises a second loop; and,

20 when said containing element is locked, said lock is present in said first loop and in said second loop.

121. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said catch mechanism is further configured to engage said containing element to lock said containing element in a closed configuration.

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122. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said containing element encloses said item when said first enclosure member is moved to a position adjacent said second enclosure member.

123. (Previously presented) The system of claim 122 wherein said first enclosure member is hinged to said second enclosure member.

124. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said catch mechanism is further configured to automatically engage said containing element when said portion is disposed inside said containing element and is urged toward the outside of said containing element.

125. (Canceled)

126. (Canceled)

127. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said component is a first component and said catch mechanism further comprises at least one second component consisting of only material that is not magnetically reactive.

128. (Previously presented) The system of claim 127 wherein said second component is configured to be moved by said first component.

129. (Previously presented) The system of claim 128 wherein, of said first and second components, only said second component is configured to engage said containing element.

130. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said catch mechanism is configured to be displaced by said magnetic field, when said containing element is closed, from a first position inside said containing element to a second position inside said containing element.

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131. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said item is a storage medium.

132. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said item is a recording medium.

133. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said catch mechanism is moveable to a position in which said catch mechanism does not extend beyond a periphery of said base.

134. (Previously presented) The system of claim 133 wherein said catch mechanism comprises at least one component subject to a magnetic force in the presence of a magnetic field.

135. (Canceled)

136. (Previously presented) The system of claim 133 wherein application of said magnetic field is effective to move said catch mechanism to said position.

137. (Previously presented) The system of claim 136 wherein said catch mechanism is further moveable to a position in which a portion of said catch mechanism extends beyond said periphery.

138. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said containing element comprises an indent adapted to receive a finger of a user.

139. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 120 wherein said containing element is further configured to receive a memory card.

140. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said containing element comprises a document retaining member.

141. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 120 wherein said document retaining member includes a gripping element.

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142. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 141 wherein said gripping element comprises a rib.

143. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said containing element comprises a hub configured to retain said item.

144. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said portion is configured to support a security tag.

145. (Currently amended) The system of claim 122 wherein at least one of said first and second ~~enclosure members~~ comprises a loop loops is configured to receive said portion.

146. (Canceled)

147. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein:

said lock further comprises a handle portion; and,
when said containing element is locked, said handle
5 portion is not enclosed in said containing element.

148. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said magnetic field is emitted by a magnetic decoupler.

149. (Previously presented) The system of claim 148 wherein said magnetic field is configured to disengage said catch mechanism from said containing element.

150. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein said lock further comprises a second catch mechanism attached to said portion and configured to be moved relative to said portion by a magnetic field.

151. (Previously presented) The system of claim 120 wherein:

said catch mechanism is elongated and has a first end and a second end;

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5 said first end is fixed to said portion at a position on said portion, said catch mechanism extending away from said position; and
 said second end is movable with respect to said position.

152. (Currently amended) The system of claim 151 wherein said second end is configured to move in a direction that is substantially circumferential to said position.

153. (Previously presented) The system of claim 151 wherein:

 said containing element has walls that define an enclosure only when said second containing element is closed;
5 said enclosure is configured to enclose said item;
and,

 when said containing member is locked, said position is inside said enclosure.

154. (Currently amended) The system of claim 153 wherein said enclosure:

 [[has]] comprises a top wall, a bottom wall, and four side walls;
5 defines at least one opening configured to be occupied by said lock; and,

 exclusive of said opening, is configured to completely enclose said item.

155. (Currently amended) The system of claim 153 wherein at least a ~~portion~~ part of the catch mechanism is configured to pass through one of said loops when said portion is passed through the same one of said loops.

156. (Previously presented) The system of claim 155 wherein said enclosure:

 has a top wall, a bottom wall, and four side walls;

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defines an opening configured to be occupied by
5 said lock; and,
exclusive of said opening, is configured to
completely enclose said item.

157. (Currently amended) The system of claim
153 wherein one of said ~~enclosures~~ enclosure members is
configured to interfere with said second end when, in the
absence of said magnetic field, said portion is ~~withdrawn~~
5 ~~from~~ urged out of said containing element.

158. (Previously presented) The system of claim
157 wherein one of said loops is configured to interfere with
said second end.

159. (Previously presented) The system of claim
153 wherein said catch mechanism is configured to be removed
entirely from said containing element when said containing
element is closed.

160. (Previously presented) The system of claim
120 wherein said catch mechanism is:
mechanically biased to engage one of said loops to
prevent withdrawal of said lock from said containing element;
5 and

configured to be magnetically moved away from the
same one of said loops to configure said lock for removal
from said containing element.

161. (Previously presented) The system of claim
160 wherein said catch mechanism is configured to be removed
entirely from said containing element when said containing
element is closed.

162. (Previously presented) The system of claim
120 wherein said catch mechanism is configured to be removed
entirely from said containing element when said containing
element is closed.

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163. (Currently amended) The system of claim 120 wherein:

said catch mechanism is elongated and has a first end and a second end;

5 said first end is fixed to said portion at a position on said portion, said catch mechanism extending away from said position; and

said second end is movable with respect to said position;

10 wherein:

said second end is configured to move in a direction that is substantially circumferential to said position;

15 said containing element has walls that define an enclosure only when said second containing element is closed;

said enclosure is configured to enclose said item;

and,

when said containing member is locked, said position is inside said enclosure.

164-165. (Canceled)

166. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[165]] 163 wherein said enclosure:

[[has]] comprises a top wall, a bottom wall, and four side walls;

5 defines at least one opening configured to be occupied by said lock; and,

exclusive of said opening, is configured to completely enclose said item.

167. (Currently amended) The system of claim 166 wherein at least a ~~portion~~ part of the catch mechanism is configured to pass through one of said loops when said portion is passed through the same one of said loops.

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168. (Canceled)

169. (Currently amended) The system of claim
[[168]] 167 wherein one of said loops is configured to
interfere with said second end.

170. (Previously presented) The system of claim
169 wherein said catch mechanism is configured to be removed
entirely from said containing element when said containing
element is closed.

171. (Previously presented) The system of claim
170 wherein said catch mechanism is:

mechanically biased to engage one of said loops to
prevent withdrawal of said lock from said containing element;

5 and

configured to be magnetically moved away from the
same one of said loops to configure said lock for removal
from said containing element.

172. (Canceled)

173. (Currently amended) The system of claim
[[172]] 171 wherein at least one of said loops is at least
partially defined by a portion of a structure having a C-
shaped cross-section.

174. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The system
of claim [[172]] 171 wherein at least one of said loops is at
least partially defined by a portion of a structure having a
U-shaped cross-section.

175. (Currently amended) The system of claim
[[172]] 171 wherein at least one of said loops is at least
partially defined by a structure having a cross-section that
is open on one side.

176. (Previously presented) The system of claim
120 wherein said catch mechanism is configured to be removed

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entirely from said containing element when said containing element is closed.

177. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~120~~ 176 wherein at least one of said loops is at least partially defined by a portion of a structure having a C-shaped cross-section.

178. (Withdrawn, currently amended) The system of claim ~~120~~ 176 wherein at least one of said loops is at least partially defined by a portion of a structure having a U-shaped cross-section.

179. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~120~~ 176 wherein at least one of said loops is at least partially defined by a structure having a cross-section that is open on one side.